



The Arlington Advocate



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HAVING A BALL



Staff photo by Marc Vasconcellos
Sheri Baron and her husband, Tom Cravotta, share a special moment during the New Year's Eve Charity Ball at Town Hall Friday. Baron, who was on the charity ball's committee, just received a string of pearls from her husband. The New Year's Eve Charity Ball, which will take place at the end of this year too, was a fundraiser for the Dollars for Scholars scholarship program.

Minuteman Regional looks to cut teachers

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

LEXINGTON — Minuteman Regional High School faces a lean and uncertain future, with enrollment expected to shrink dramatically with the end of the controversial School Choice program.

With that in mind, School Superintendent Ronald Fitzgerald has recommended the Lexington-based vocational school shed seven teachers and support staff next year as Minuteman phases out the program and shrinks by 120 students.

At its Tuesday meeting, the Minuteman Regional School Committee took up the proposed \$13.6 million school budget for next year, a plan that increases total spending by a little less than 2 percent while making cuts to teaching staff and school programs.

Fitzgerald has recommended cutting seven positions for the school's payroll, including six teachers and one administrator.

Doing so would save about \$300,000 from Minuteman's \$9.2 million in salaries.

"It's in fact quite an agonizing decision," said Thomas Markham, the school's spokesman. "It's something that Dr. Fitzgerald does with great reluctance."

It all follows from the decision to stop accepting School Choice students.

School Choice is a program that started with the passage of the state Education Reform Act of 1993. The program allows students from outside of Minuteman's district to attend the school. The decision for any school to accept Choice students is the prerogative of the School Committee.

Since the program began, the number of Choice students attending Minuteman has grown to one-quarter of the student body. That became a financial burden for towns in the Minuteman district, since the money that comes in with Choice kids covers roughly half the cost of an

education at Minuteman. The communities in the Minuteman district are obligated to make up the difference.

More than 110 Arlington kids attend the school, making the town the largest single contributor of students to the school. Arlington's Finance Committee calculated that the Choice program was forcing the town to pay more than \$900,000 a year to subsidize the education of students from other towns. Minuteman Regional School District includes Acton, Arlington, Belmont, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Lexington, Stow, Lincoln, Sudbury, Wayland, Weston, Bolton, Lancaster, Needham and Dover.

This year, the School Committee voted to stop accepting Choice students. While the committee could decide to start accepting Choice kids again, that does not appear likely.

"That's not a decision [that will be] willingly overturned by me as chairman," said Chairman

■ SEE MINUTEMAN, PAGE 12

School board discusses the dreaded 'R' word

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

Parents don't like to hear it and school officials don't like to say it, but Arlington is faced with the worst word in education.

The issue is redistricting, which is always a controversial item that can pit one resident against another. It can be disruptive and confrontational, especially in Arlington when residents take such pride in their own school district. In fact, many move to a certain part of town because it is in a certain district.

With that in mind, school officials are trying to develop a

plan which will affect the fewest students.

Officials are exploring redistricting possibilities because of the shifting population. Superintendent Kay Donovan said redistricting is still a few years down the road since the Bishop School will need to be finished before redistricting can take place.

"We're trying to do it ahead of time because it takes a long time for people [to cope with their children changing schools]," she said.

According to preliminary plans, the Bishop School would be most affected. Over the years, the Bishop district has spread south of Massachusetts Avenue.

Officials want to decrease the number of students attending Bishop and send them to another nearby school like the Brackett.

Besides the Bishop, the only changes Donovan foresees are on the borderline district streets.

"Other than that, I don't see many street changes," she said.

The redistricting will also allow the elementary schools to become more inclusive with special education students and LABBB students spread throughout the system. In addition, School Committee member Martin Thrope said he would like to see Metco students spread evenly throughout the schools.

■ SEE REDISTRICTING, PAGE 12

Students: Spanish program is 'muy bueno'

Kindergarten through second grade learning second language this year

BY BOB SPRAGUE
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

Like Latin music, whose insistent rhythms are altering the tempo of U.S. pop culture, Spanish-language enrichment is changing the face of education in Arlington public schools.

The parent-pursued program, which began in the fall of 1998, has become the toehold of what aims to become full-fledged Spanish instruction throughout the system.

For the first time, town public schools this fall have offered Spanish to all kindergarten through second graders. A total of 1,028 students at seven schools take the language as enrichment (no grades) twice a week, one-half hour at a time, under a program in tune with the state-required curriculum, known as the "frameworks."

To do that, the school administration, with School Committee approval last spring, set aside \$90,000 for the current fiscal budget, to hire three teachers and start Spanish in the elementary-school curriculum.

That money brought to Arlington three teachers who are enduring something of an itinerant status while breaking new ground.

The teachers are MarieElena McGonigle, Siobhan Foley and Marina Cocconi.

As bases of operation, each tries to hang her sombrero at specific schools — McGonigle is based at Peirce and Hardy; Foley, at Dallin, Brackett and Thompson; and Cocconi, at Stratton and Bishop. All of the three work at the Dallin.

But this trio has a number of Latin moves. You may find these three at other Arlington schools than those above. We caught up

with Cocconi at a Dallin second-grade class. Jan Ford's 16 students gathered in an activity corner on a rug at the feet of the Spanish teacher.

For the next half hour, children — and both teachers — were involved in a percussive beat of song, dance and play, all aimed at having Spanish words roll from the tongues of 7-year-old English speakers. All aims seem on target.

From a cart she tugs to each class, Cocconi snapped up a blue puppet, who helped sing and translate the familiar tune of "Frere Jacques" into Spanish: "Buenos tardes, buenos tardes..."

Transitions were as quick as Nicktoons.

The class moved among the parts of the body: "Boca," she called out, and a youngster pointed to her mouth. "Ojos," and

■ SEE LANGUAGE, PAGE 10

Heights neighborhood raises traffic concerns

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Acton Street have asked the Board of Selectmen to fine-tune traffic rules they enacted in 1998.

Acton Street is a small residential road in Arlington Heights that connects with Appleton Street at one end, dead-ending at Appleton Place at the other. In addition to a score of homes, the small neighborhood includes the May Center for Early Childhood Education, St. James Church and Ottoson Middle

School.

In 1998, the selectmen responded to a petition from Acton Street and voted to make a section of it one-way. The petition had asked that the one-way be in effect only during school hours, making the street safer for children coming and going from Ottoson and the May Center. The recommendation from the police was to make the street one-way at all times, making the rules clearer for drivers by not adding modifications. The residential

■ SEE ACTON ST., PAGE 24

New millennium, same as the old millennium

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

January First in Arlington, and all was well.

Computer systems throughout the town did not fall prey to the Y2K bug, a programming flaw that held the possibility of widespread computer-system failures when the year changed from 1999 to 2000.

In a story repeated throughout the world, no major computer problems were reported as humankind moved into the new year.

Arlington was no exception. Like most cities and towns in Massachusetts, Arlington had contin-

gency plans in place. Extra police, firefighters and emergency dispatchers were kept on duty. Shelters were designated in case of widespread or prolonged utility failures. The town's Community Safety Office set up a special Y2K hotline.

Midnight came and went, and a then the checking began.

"Of course, everything was working," said Richard Maimone, director of Arlington's fire department. Maimone, on duty New Year's Eve, also chaired a Y2K preparedness committee for Arlington's municipal departments.

The town hotline was as busy

■ SEE Y2K, PAGE 24

Food Pantry looking for your extras

With doomsayers predicting power outages and other disruptions and telling the world to stock up on products for the New Year, demand at local supermarkets surged a bit during the last weeks of 1999.

Now that you have enough creamed corn to feed an army, there is a place for your extra supplies — the Arlington Food Pantry. The charity operates from the basement of Church of Our Savior, 21 Marathon St., and the people who run it would love to receive unneeded

Y2K provisions.

Arlington Food Pantry receives donations between 3-5 p.m. every Friday at the church. People can also donate to the pantry through their own churches or through several Arlington supermarkets. The church office can be reached at 648-5962.

Arlington Food Pantry distributes donated food to needy families twice a month. According to Hofmann, the pantry helped more than 250 Arlington families in December.

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communityclassifieds.com

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FOR THE RECORD

POLICE LOG

Selections from the Arlington police log for the week of Dec. 27-Jan. 2:

Monday, Dec. 27

• At 5:53 p.m., police received a report of the theft of \$270 in cash from a Fremont Court resident. The resident decided not to pursue the matter.

• At 8:24 p.m., police investigated a report of a car break-in on Scituate Street, where the driver of a 1987 VW reported that a cell phone and possibly as many as 100 CDs had been stolen some time during the night.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

• At 9:01 a.m., a Lockland Avenue woman reported that her 1999 Toyota had been vandalized with a dousing of lubricant and noted an odd mixture of items nearby: a hunting knife stuck into the ground near a charred piece of cloth, and a Hot Rod magazine placed on the truck. Police have a suspect and are investigating.

• At 3:52 p.m., a Gardner Street resident reported that a 1989 Dodge had a window shot with a BB.

• At 4:54 p.m., an Arlington resident reported an assault that he said occurred on Dec. 16 in Menotomy Rocks Park. The man said that while walking with his dog, he approached another man, also walking his dog. The two dogs got into a fight, after which the stranger struck the first fellow and then apologized.

• At 5:43 p.m., a Gardner Street resident reported that a 1996

Toyota had its window shot with a BB.

Thursday, Dec. 30

• At 1:25 a.m., an Alfred Road resident reported that a new VW Jetta had been stolen. The car was returned shortly thereafter.

• At 8:30 a.m., a Sherborn Street resident reported a van break-in.

• At 11:03 a.m., a motorist driving on Route 2 reported that a car driving in front of her had dropped something that had struck her car and smashed her windshield.

• At 2:08 p.m., a Colonial Village Drive resident reported that a cell phone had been either lost or stolen.

• At 3:48 p.m., a woman working at a Massachusetts Avenue business reported the theft of two checks and \$1,200 in cash from her purse.

• At 4:34 p.m., the manager of Ripples, 309 Broadway, reported that a white man in his mid-40s had tried to shop-lift several bottles of shampoo.

Friday, Dec. 31

• At 3:16 p.m., police were called to the Town Hall Barber Shop, 733 Massachusetts Ave., for a woman in her 40s who appeared intoxicated. The woman was taken into protective custody and transported to the Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St.

Saturday, Jan. 1

• At 10:30 a.m., police received a report of vandalism to a 1988 VW on Milton Street. A window had reportedly been broken and

a radio taken.

• At 7:37 p.m., police received a report of vandalism to a 1997 Saturn parked on Arizona Terrace.

Sunday, Jan. 2

• At 1:23 a.m., police took a Mystic Street resident into protective custody after the reportedly intoxicated person tried to

start a car and drive.

• At 3:29 p.m., police received a report of vandalism to a 1991 Ford parked on Grove street. The sunroof of the car had apparently been smashed with a beer bottle.

• At 8:09 p.m., a resident of Grove Street reported that a house window had been smashed.

ARRESTS

The following is the arrest log for Arlington's police department for the week of Dec. 28-Jan. 2.

Friday, Dec. 31

• At 7:45 p.m., police arrested Raymond A. Bradley Jr., 55, of 68 Hillsdale Road, at his home. Officers arrested Bradley after a reported domestic fight in the backyard. Bradley also allegedly tried to flee the yard and fight with responding officers, who stated in their report that they used pepper spray to subdue him after Bradley became violent. He was charged with assault and battery, assault and battery on a police officer, and resisting arrest. The arresting officer was Officer John Flanagan.

Saturday, Jan. 1

• At 11:55 a.m., police arrested Lori A. Maloney, 32, of 15 Church Ave. in Woburn. Maloney was arrested at her mother's home on Oakland

Avenue following a reported fight with her mother. Maloney was charged with assault and battery and having two outstanding warrants. The arresting officer was Officer Michael Kanelos.

Sunday, Jan. 2

• At 6:10 p.m., police arrested Lisa D. Murray, 31, of 459 Summer St. Murray was arrested following a traffic stop on Lowell Street and taken into custody for having four outstanding arrest warrants covering eight counts of alleged larceny by check. The arresting officer was Officer Doug Cronin.

• At 10 p.m., police arrested Phillip E. Morris, 22, of 65 Elm St. in Lynn. Morris was arrested following a traffic stop near the intersection of Lowell Street and Massachusetts Avenue. He was charged with driving with a suspended license and speeding. The arresting officer was Officer Doug Cronin.

MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 6

• Chief Executive Search Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the Town Hall annex, 21 Academy St.

Saturday, Jan. 8

• Affordable Housing Task Force meets at 9 a.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St.

Sunday, Jan. 9

• Noise Abatement Study Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. at 65 Woodside Lane.

Monday, Jan. 10

• Hardy School Council meets at 5 p.m. of Room 1 in Hardy School, 52 Lake St.
• Board of Selectmen meet at 7:15 p.m. in the selectmen's hearing room on the second floor of Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

Tuesday, Jan. 11

• Minuteman Regional School Committee meets

at 7:30 p.m. in the library of Minuteman Regional High School, 758 Marrett Road in Lexington.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

• Vision 2020 Standing Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Town Hall annex.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

• Permanent Town Building Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall annex.

• Arlington Housing Authority's board of commissioners meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Cusack board room of Winslow Tower, 4 Winslow St.

• Vision 2020's environmental subcommittee for Spy Pond meets at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Town Hall annex.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

• Finance Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Community Safety Building.

Staff meeting

The staff of *The Arlington Advocate* will hold a story meeting at 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 6 at Carberry's, 600 Massachusetts Ave.

The meeting is a chance for the public to discuss possible news stories and ideas for the paper.

We will be located near the front of the eatery — look for the journalism stuff like the paper, scanner, notebooks, etc.

We hope to see you there.

THE ARLINGTON ADVOCATE

(USPS 031-900)

HOW TO REACH US

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NEWSROOM

If you have a news story idea, a letter to the editor, obituary, a question about news coverage, or to submit an arts, education or a social news item, contact Les Masterson the editor for *The Arlington Advocate*.

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Call: (781) 674-7726

Fax: (781) 674-7735

E-mail: les.masterson@cnc.com

For sports submissions, contact Walter Moynihan.

Sports Editor: (781) 674-7724

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Town Online publishes online 7 days a week at www.townonline.com and America Online Keyword: Town Online. Town Online features news from more than 45 local publications, profiles of more than 200 Eastern Massachusetts communities, and items of regional interest.

TUNES A-BREWING



A new coffeehouse season is underway, and acoustic music fans are once again flocking to pubs and church basements across the region. You'll find concert schedules and web links to many of the scene's hottest stars at www.townonline.com/coffeehouses



FROM ARTS TO ZEN

Hunting for something to do? Town Online's Community Connections calendar will give you a jump start on happenings throughout eastern Massachusetts. Visit it online at www.townonline.com/calendar

GET CONNECTED

Free web sites for local groups are available through the Community Connections program at Community Newspaper Company.

Churches, marching bands and sports teams have used this program to join the World Wide Web.

Interested? Contact Deirdre O'Leary by e-mail at doleary@cnc.com or check out the program at www.townonline/community/registration.html

TOWN ONLINE INDEX

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- Parent and Baby www.townonline.com/parentandbaby
- Real Estate www.townonline.com/realestate
- Town Online Business Directory www.townonline.com/shop
- Phantom Gourmet www.townonline.com/phantom



AOL Keyword: Town Online

FIRE LOG

From the incident reports from Arlington's fire department for the week of Dec. 27-Jan. 2. During that period, the department responded to 99 calls, including 34 rescues, 22 investigations and 12 "alarms of fire." References in this digest to "paramedics" denote two-medical teams from Armstrong Ambulances Services, a private Arlington-based ambulance company.

Monday, Dec. 27

• At 9:42 a.m., firefighters and paramedics were sent to a Howard Street residence for a 48-year-old man who was complaining of chest pain. He was taken to Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge.

• At 1:29 p.m., firefighters and EMTs responded to a Central Street address for a 21-year-old Medford woman reportedly suffering from an anxiety attack. The woman had reportedly lost consciousness for a few minutes before rescue workers arrived. She was taken to Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford.

• At 4:03 p.m., firefighters were sent to Chestnut Manor on Medford Street to free a woman trapped in an elevator. The doors to the elevator were forced open and the woman freed.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

• At 12:27 a.m., firefighters were sent to a Fremont Street home for a small stove fire. The fire was extinguished by the resident. The rooms were vented by the firefighters and the alarm reset.

• At 3:14 p.m., firefighters and paramedics were sent to an apartment at Winslow Tower on Winslow Street for an 86-year-old woman. The woman said she had badly burned herself while cooking the previous night, with injuries covering more than half of her body. She was taken to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

• At 8:27 p.m., firefighters were sent to Sherborn Street for an oven fire caused by too much accumulated grease. There was little damage within the kitchen aside from heavy smoke.

Thursday, Dec. 30

• At 7:34 p.m., firefighters and rescue workers were sent to a western section of Route 2 for a one-car accident in which a truck apparently struck a guardrail. The driver, a 39-year-

old Somerville man, was taken to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

• At 4:22 p.m., rescue crews were sent to Florence Avenue for an 82-year-old man who had fallen and possibly fractured his left arm. Firefighters also noted that the home was in an extremely unkempt and unclean state. The man was taken to a Cambridge hospital, and the town's Council on Aging was notified as a possible source of assistance.

• At 5:43 p.m., firefighters were sent to the corner of Mystic and Winslow streets for a two-car accident involving an Arlington Police cruiser. The officer, John Brescia, was sent to Mt. Auburn Hospital. The other driver, a 33-year-old Allston woman, was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton.

Friday, Dec. 31

• At 8:19 p.m., firefighters were sent to a Crawford Street home for a reported fire. The home was occupied by four women, one of whom had started a fire in the fireplace with a closed chimney vent. When she opened the front door to the fireplace, the flames quickly gathered oxygen and exploded, burning the woman's face, hands, and dress. The fire was quickly extinguished and all four women refused medical treatment.

Saturday, Jan. 1

• At 2:57 p.m., rescue crews and paramedics were sent to a Churchill Avenue home for an 87-year-old woman who had apparently suffered a stroke. She was found unconscious, but breathing and with a pulse. She was taken to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

• At 8:41 p.m., firefighters were sent to Fremont Court for a fire in a trash barrel. The fire was put out in five minutes.

• At 10:50 p.m., rescue crews were sent to Madison Avenue for a seven-year-old girl who had suffered a seizure, according to her mother. She was found conscious, sitting with her mother. Both were taken to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

Sunday, Jan. 2

• At 10:39 p.m., a fire-engine company from Arlington was sent to 175 Main St. in Medford to assist with that community's firefighters with a structure fire. The Arlington company was in Medford for two hours.

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Celebrating our 15th year!

Police investigating two New Year's bomb threats

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

Arlington police are investigating bomb threats made against two municipal buildings in the early hours of New Year's Day.

As of Tuesday, both threats appeared to be from the same person.

At 1:25 a.m., an anonymous caller phoned an on-duty employee of the town's Department of Public Works and said there was a bomb at Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave. The caller, according to police, appears to be a man and sounded extremely drunk.

According to Fred Ryan, director of the police department, a "thorough search" of Town Hall followed and yielded nothing.

"Police and firefighters investigated and found no suspicious objects in Town Hall or outside," he said.

At 2:05 a.m., the same man apparently made a second bomb call, this time for the DPW truck yard on Grove Street.

"The search of the [Town Hall] premises was near completion when the second call came in," said Ryan.

'We are in the process of exploring some phone records and pursuing other possible leads.'

FRED RYAN, DIRECTOR OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A follow-up investigation at Grove Street found no bomb.

Arlington police inspectors are now investigating the calls and believe the caller might be a disgruntled current or former employee of the DPW. Ryan said Monday it was not known if the calls were made in Arlington.

"We are in the process of exploring some phone records and pursuing other possible leads," he said.

Making bogus bomb threats is not a felony in Massachusetts, said Ryan, who has investigated similar incidents while working as a Concord police officer. If police find out who made the calls, he said, they can charge the person with a disorderly-person misdemeanor.

Officer hurt in two-car accident

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

A two-car accident involving an Arlington police cruiser injured two people, including a police officer, in the early evening of Dec. 30.

Officer John Brescia was driving west across Mystic Street to enter Winslow Street. A southbound car on Mystic stopped, and its driver waived Brescia across. A second car driven by Ana Melo, 33, heading south on Mystic, drove around the first and crashed into the cruiser.

The crash crunched up the front ends of both cars.

Both Brescia and Brighton resident Iracema Santa Rosa, Melo's passenger, were treated and released from hospitals in Cambridge and Brighton. Santa Rosa had been wearing her seatbelt. Brescia had not.

Neither Melo nor Brescia were cited for the accident.

Brescia, who suffered head, neck, and shoulder injuries, will be on paid leave for a line-of-duty injury for several weeks. Fred Ryan, director of the police department, said Tuesday he did not yet have an estimate for the damage to the cruiser.

Officials contemplate holding Special TM

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Selectmen, at its Jan. 10 meeting, will consider calling a Special Town Meeting to assure timely state financing for two Arlington school reconstruction projects.

Two different approvals are needed to authorize town spending for the school construction projects. Arlington voters must approve an increase in tax rates to pay for the projects at a special election. That election has been scheduled for April 1 and will ask for money for four school projects, including the Peirce, Dallin, Stratton, and Thompson elementary schools. Money for the projects must also be appropriated at Town Meeting.

The selectmen are considering a Special Town Meeting, to be held during the annual Town Meeting this year, to hold a vote for work at

the Peirce and Dallin elementary schools. Those schools are the next in line on the construction schedule set by the Permanent Town Building Committee.

A "special" is being scheduled to assure that a vote can be taken before a June 1 deadline imposed by the state School Building Assistance Bureau, the agency that arranges financing for school renovations. The annual Town Meeting, which begins April 24, has the potential to run past that deadline.

If voters approve school reconstruction for Peirce and Dallin, as well as the Thompson and Stratton elementary schools, the state will cover 63 percent of the building cost.

Town receives recycling grants

Representatives Anne Paulsen and Jim Marzilli announced that Arlington will receive three recycling grants totaling \$2,223 from the Department of Environmental Protection.

The grants earmark \$950 for home composting bins, \$1,177 for curbside recycling containers and \$96 for brochures explaining what is and what is not recycled in the towns different apartment buildings.

The grants are part of a 10-year, \$17 million effort to expand recycling in Massachusetts.

DANCING INTO 2000



Paul Wisner and Laura Bronisz dance at the New Year's Charity Ball held at Town Hall Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY
MARC VASCONCELLOS

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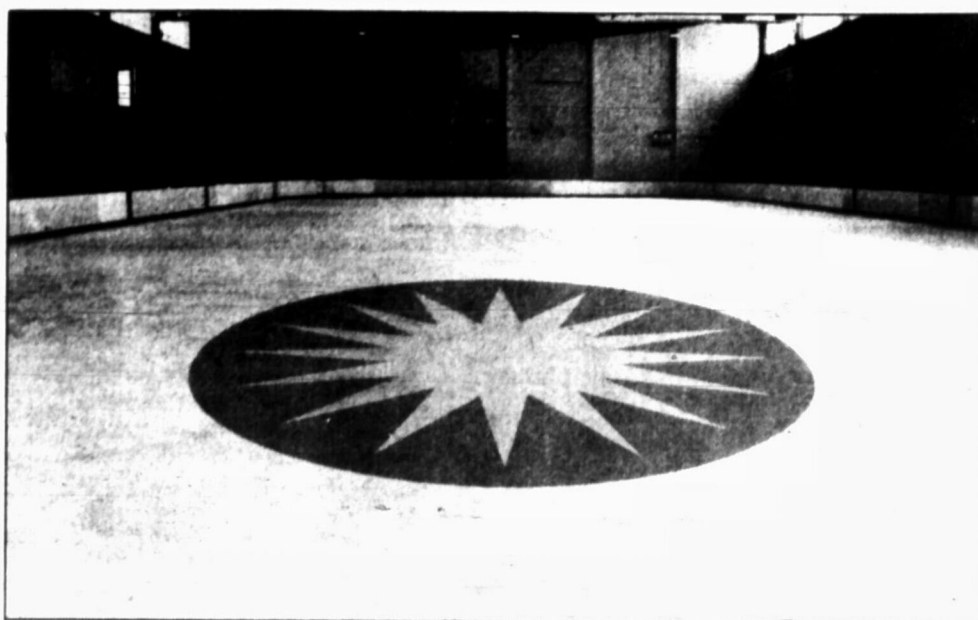
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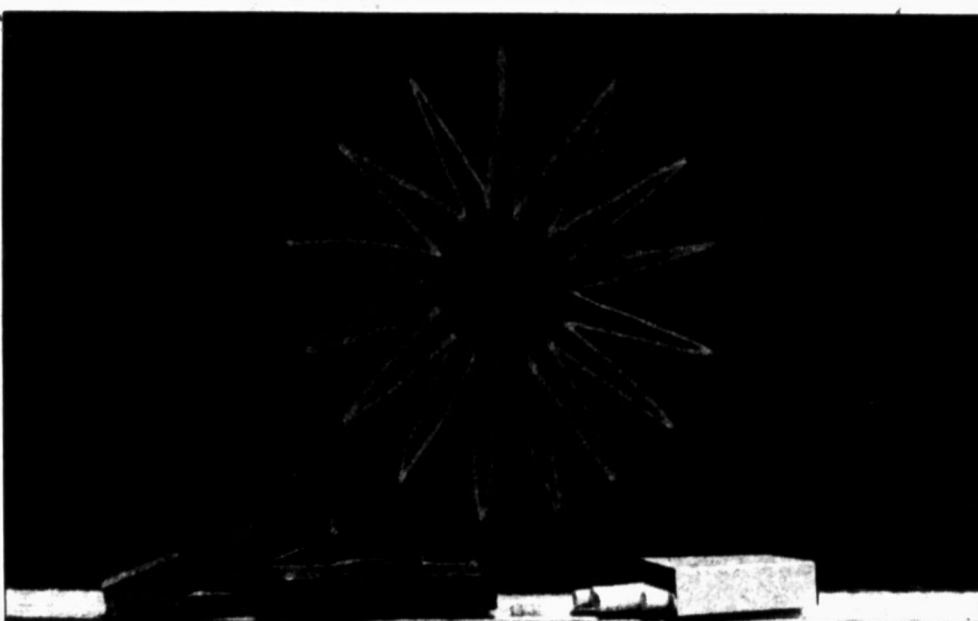
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ARTS

Center for the Arts exhibit reviews time, looks toward future

BY CHRIS RICHARDS
CORRESPONDENT

On the surface, the Arlington Center for the Arts' Gibbs Gallery has an empty cheese puff bag, dentures, and a rusted shovel. However, these personal relics are not cluttering the gallery, but part of "Artifacts: Past, Present, Future," which is an "exhibit investigating the millennium."

One of the artists featured is Belmont resident Nancy Schieffelin, who was awarded First Prize at the National Prize Show at the Federal Reserve Bank Gallery. She has also exhibited work throughout New England.

"My work represents ancient

tablets that have been dug up from another civilization," she said of her work displayed in Gibbs Gallery. "It represents the previous millenium. My work is very tangible and tactile, it's a physical presence."

The Belmont resident said we could learn something from the past.

"Ancient civilizations made things that lasted. We make things that last for maybe a year or two... The newest computer is obsolete because there is yet another one around the corner," she said.

With dozens of other works in the exhibit, Schieffelin was interested in the differences.

"I thought it was interesting how people approached the subject matter. Some related better than others," she said.

Since art operates on many different levels, the exhibit highlights the many ways in which each artist interprets the millennium. While some condense a singular moment, others search for meaning by stretching time apart. At any rate, every artist deals with this unique era in human history in an illuminating fashion.

For some artists, their conception is viewed through an isolated moment in time. Time becomes a particular object which one can never forget, like the magnet on the refrigerator someone looks at when they have just received some horrible news, or some astonishing news.

Amy Ross created one of these singular images in her piece entitled "Ambivalence." Encased within a wooden frame is a bright red velvet cushion, and lying on it is a full size white cloth hammer. It is apparent that this piece has a life of its own.

Every serious artist wishes that their work will endure the test of time, and perhaps this may be the idea which some are working with.

In Luann Udell's piece "Lacaux: Travelling," she locks horns with this concept. Decorated with ancient drawings of bulls from ancient caves in France, this vessel is an arrangement of prehistoric drawings of ancient animals.



Gall Erwin's "History of Paper, Parts 1 & 2" is part of a Arlington Center for the Arts display entitled "Artifacts: Past, Present, Future." The exhibit runs until Jan. 28 at the Gibbs Gallery.

These are probably some of the first ever sketches by humankind, and Udell accommodates their presence with the following words, "We do not understand the mystery of these paintings. We know not what they meant to those who created them. But their beauty and power create profound echoes in our modern hearts."

Attempting to unlock the mystery of time and the way in which humans remember it is another aspect which the artists in this exhibit grapple with. While some crystallized their existence with a singular object, others chose to symbolically wrap time into a ball. Brookline native C.J. Lori accomplishes this feat through her work entitled "The Family

Plot." Accumulating personal artifacts from her nuclear family, Lori glues together all sorts of relics, including her grandfather's dentures and her grandmother's beads. By locking these pieces together in time, Lori has created a powerful image which yearns to escape its past.

"Artifact: Past, Present, Future" runs until Jan. 28.

ARLINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS NOTES

ARLINGTON CENTER FOR THE Arts

4; and the Art of Decorative Chocolate Making, Feb. 15. A one-time Monday workshop for teachers and parents, Incorporating Comics Into Classroom Instruction, is on March 20, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Special exercise classes are Yoga for Health and the Creative Mind, Wednesday, 9:30 to 10:30, and two sessions of Tai Chi & Meditation, Monday, 6-7 p.m. and Thursday, 6-7 p.m.

Special teen classes are Perfor-

mance in Theater, Tuesday, 5-6:30, and More Than Beads—Silver Jewelry, Tuesday, 4-6 p.m. At the Senior Center there are two continuing favorites: Art Class, Monday, 9:30 am-noon and Writing Workshop, Wednesday, 10-11:30 a.m. For three winter Saturdays—Jan. 29, Feb. 12, and March 4—a Life Drawing Workshop gives the opportunity to draw and paint the human figure.

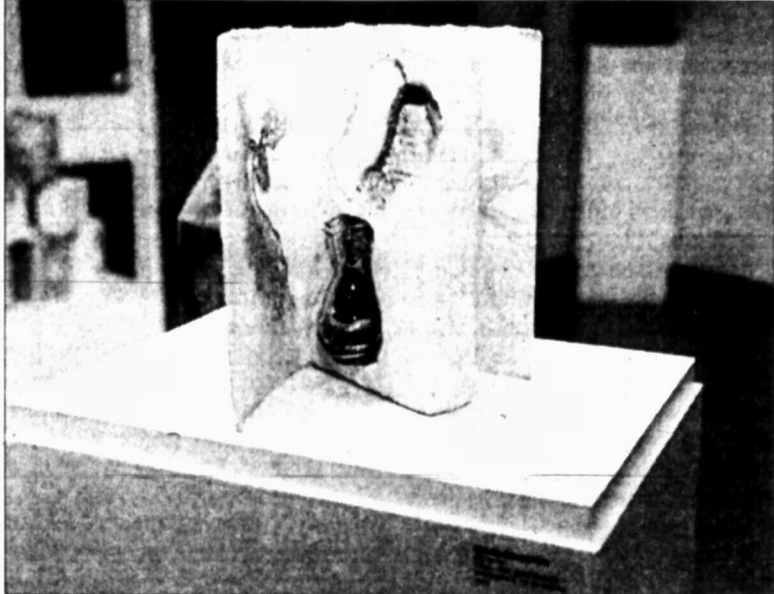
For the youngest artists, the center has two daytime sessions of Parent/Toddler Art, Monday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Elementary-aged artists may wish to explore Passports (ages 5-7), Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5; Young Artmakers (ages 5-7), Thursday, 3:30 to 5:30; or Art Centers (ages 5-10),

Friday, 3:30 to 4:30, which is available either as a semester-long or weekly drop-in class. Children in upper grades can choose from Developing the Artist's Eye (ages 9-12), Wednesday, 3:30 to 5:30 or Art Explorers (ages 8-10), Friday, 4:30 to 6. Three-dimensional art-making is available in clay and woodworking: Clay is the Way, Tuesdays at 3:30 to 4:30 (ages 6-8) and 4:30 to 6:30 (ages 9-12). Various sections are also available for Woodworking: (ages 6-7), Thursday and Fridays, 3 to 4:30 or (ages 8-11) Thursdays and Fridays, 4:30 to 6. A new course, Wood, Clay, Wire (ages 8-10) debuts on Mondays, 4 to 6. Beginners and advanced cartoon artists have, Comics & Cartooning (ages 9-13), Monday, 3:30 to 5.

Theater for ages 6-8 continues with Little Performers Theatre, Tuesday, 3:30 to 5, and for ages 9-12, there is Improvisation and Performance, Fridays, 3:30 to 5:30. Finally, last fall's favorite, Hip-Hop Dance returns on Saturdays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Family art activities happen weekly or for the winter session with Drum Day, Saturday, March 25, 12:45 to 3 p.m. and Culture Club: Art Night for Families (kids, ages 5-13, & parents), Fridays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Massachusetts certified teachers can receive PDP's for Arlington Center for the Arts courses. We can also often arrange special "Designer Courses" tailored to your needs. Call (781) 564-6220 for information or to register.



Claudia Ravaschiere's "Alchemy" incorporates silverpoint, ink, glass, hair, and gold thread.

The Arlington Center for the Arts winter session begins Jan. 18 with classes for adults, seniors, families, teens and children. New literary offerings for the winter term include: Crossover: Connecting Writing and Art, Monday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Sudden Fiction, Tuesday, 7 to 9:30 p.m.; and Finding Poetry, Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m. New art classes are Drawing for Beginners, Monday, 7 to 9:30 p.m.; Beginning Watercolor, Wednesday, 7 to 9:30 p.m.; Figure in Watercolor, Tuesday, 7 to 9:30 p.m.; and Portraits, Thursday, 7 to 9:30 p.m.

For Beginners or those interested in a daytime class there is Back to the Studio, Wednesday, 11 a.m. and Watercolor Expression, Thursday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Exploring Oil Media,

Monday, 7 to 9:30 and Painting Technique Studio, Wednesday, 6:45 to 9:30 are for all levels.

Two ceramics classes, in the daytime and in the evening, are being offered: Ceramics—Wheel and Hand, Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 7 to 9:30 p.m. There is also a Ceramics Studio, weekdays or weekend, option. Accordingly, there are both a Making Marks in Printmaking, Thursday, 7 to 9:30 p.m., class and a Print Studio, weekdays or weekend, option also. Finally, there is a Artistic Jewelry in Silver daytime, Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and evening, Tuesday, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., course offering. Possible Saturday workshops include: Papermaking, Jan. 22 and 29; Basic Bookmaking Techniques, March

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Good times, bad times mark last six months of 1999

The conclusion of a two-part series looking back at 1999. This week, The Advocate takes a look at the last six months

July

• Symmes Hospital and Medical Center in Arlington, reeling from mounting financial losses, will soon stop offering emergency-room and in-patient services. Ambulance runs to Symmes are now being diverted to other nearby hospitals. The acute care programs, including emergency surgery, intensive-care and transitional-care services will be phased out during the next several weeks. No patients currently receiving care in these programs will be prematurely discharged, said David Spackman, an attorney for HealthSouth, one of the two companies that owns and operates Symmes. The move is technically a suspension, not a complete closure, of the emergency room services, said Symmes spokeswoman Pamela Bush. The hospital will retain the ability to reopen its acute-care program, though that will probably not happen any time soon.

• Arlington's Redevelopment Board granted final design approval for a 134-unit apartment complex in Arlington Center being

been on administrative leave since April, pending the outcome of public disciplinary hearings for their part in an alleged cover-up of former Officer Richard Jenkins' criminal behavior in 1997. McGurl and Kelly appealed the decision to the state Civil Service Commission, which will hear the case in January.

August

• The state Parole Board granted parole to former Arlington police officer Richard Jenkins, who had served half of his six-month sentence at Billerica House of Correction for filing a false stolen-vehicle report and being a disorderly person. Jenkins was convicted in Cambridge District Court on April 9 and sentenced on April 15 to serve six months of a two-year sentence in Billerica.

• The closure of in-patient services at Symmes Hospital and Medical Center might have one silver lining, thanks to the generosity of an Arlington-based ambulance company and its president, Bill Armstrong. Armstrong Ambulance Services offered to help pay for a new ambulance for Arlington's Fire Department.

• The most recent flare-up in relations between Arlington and Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington died down, when the Board of Selectmen decided to accept a new calculation of Arlington's share of the school's budget.

• A Town Hall consultant has just begun a study of Arlington's three aging fire stations as part of a major planning effort to outline a list of repairs for consideration at next year's Town Meeting.

September

• Fred Ryan, who rose from dispatcher to deputy chief during a 14-year career, leaves the Concord Police Department to return home to Arlington, becoming the town's top cop. Ryan, 36, will replace Director of Police Services Eugene Del Gaizo, who steps down after more than 30 years as an Arlington police officer. Town Manager Don Marquis picked Ryan from 50 applicants.

• A portion of the bleachers at the Warren A. Peirce Field collapsed during the fourth of five Pop Warner football games. Arlington was playing Medford when Medford resident Stephen Tuden was standing high in the bleachers, located on the south side of the field, when the wooden plank beneath him gave way. Tuden, 41, declined medical assistance. A few weeks later, the stands are repaired, inspected and safe, according to town building officials and consultants. The Peirce bleachers are composed of wooden steps and seats laid over a steel superstructure.

• Tropical Storm Floyd, limping north after a destructive career as a hurricane in Florida and the Caroli-

nas, did not deliver much of a punch to Arlington. Which is not to say there were not problems. Companies of firefighters, police and repair crews from Boston Edison and the town's Department of Public Works responded to more than two dozen reports of downed trees or power lines, mostly on Friday.

• Assisted living apartments remain in Arlington's future, as two development companies pursue separate projects in Arlington Center and Arlington Heights. Waltham-based EPOCH Senior Living wants to redevelop the long, red brick building at 30 Water St., currently owned by BankBoston. The building most recently had been used as an office suite by the bank. About six months ago, the bank selected EPOCH as the developer and prospective purchaser. The bank and EPOCH have been in negotiation since that time and are close to executing a purchase-and-sale agreement, said Planning Director Alan McClennen.

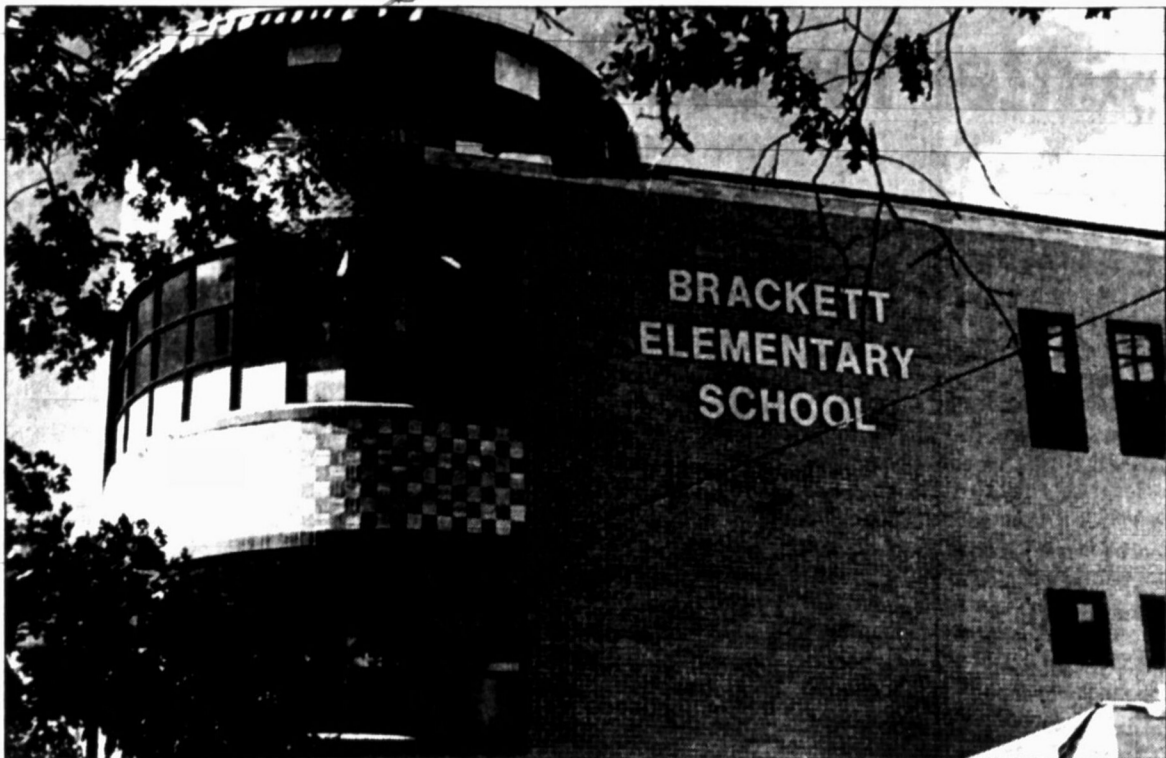
October

• Stratton School principal Bernie Walsh, 59, died Oct. 13, 1999, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton after a lengthy illness. His memorial service at St. Agnes Church drew hundreds of educators, students, parents and townspeople who came to celebrate a life devoted to teaching and one that was filled with love for school children, his own family and God.

• The patrol officers of Arlington's police department have been working for the past three years without a labor contract with the town. They will not have to work through a fourth. By a vote of 33 to 1, the membership of Arlington Patrolmen's Association ratified a pair of two-year contracts hammered out between the union and Town Manager Donald Marquis. The agreement is the fruit of hundreds of hours of work by officers Lisa Chinal and Robert Bongiorno, who negotiated on behalf of the patrolmen, and Personnel Director John Dunlap and police Director Fred Ryan, who negotiated for Town Manager Donald Marquis. For the police, the new contract provides more money and more vacation time. Patrol officers will receive annual 3 percent raises, retroactive back to 1997, resulting in a nice, large back-pay check at the start of the next fiscal year. The contracts will be in effect until June 30, 2001.

• Arlington gave a warm welcome to John Kenneth Gálbraith, the public-policy polymath and author of "The Affluent Society," who drove in from neighboring Cambridge to speak beneath the vaulted roof of the Town Hall auditorium. The free lecture is the first in series offered by the Arlington Historical Society as part of the town's official celebration of the end of the millennium.

• Unhappy property owners journeyed to the steps of Town Hall on a cold, damp Saturday morning to protest Arlington's ongoing property revaluation project. The town Assessor's Office is conducting a comprehensive survey of every piece of property in Arlington, with the aim of bringing property tax assessments into line with current market values. Those who attended the rally were angry about the cost of the project (\$525,000) and the need to inspect the inside of a home, and were anxious about



The Brackett Elementary School reopened this fall and quickly became known as one of the school system's gems.

the effect their revalued property would have on their tax bills.

November

• The Board of Selectmen Monday night unanimously voted to put a ballot question on the April ballot, asking the citizens of Arlington to approve the money for the reconstruction of four elementary school. On April 1, as part of the regularly scheduled spring election, Arlington voters will find the following question on their ballot slips: "Shall the Town of Arlington be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two-and-one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond or bonds issued in order to finance projects by the issuance of such bonds or notes to construct or add to, remodel, reconstruct and originally equip the Dallin, Peirce, Stratton, and Thompson elementary schools?"

• After two years of four-way wrangling, Arlington cleared a major hurdle on the way to starting a \$5.6 million project to redevelop the Reed's Brook landfill. Planning Director Alan McClennen announced that a state-sponsored mediation had ended, allowing the town, after two years of negotiations and legwork, to go forward with the Reed's Brook project. Reed's Brook is a 22-acre piece of land bounded by Summer, Reed and Thesda streets in the northwest corner of town. For 10 years in the 1960s, it was a dump, a use that ended almost 30 years ago. Since then, the privately held land has not been used for much of anything. Water problems with the old dump had been identified as early as 1986, when the town investigated and found its drainage system broken and filled with sand. Steadily worsening flooding continued for low-lying homes and streets nearby.

• Police are searching for the people responsible for a spattering of racist and homophobic graffiti painted behind two Arlington business blocks last week. Fred Ryan, director of Arlington's police department, said the graffiti was first reported on the morning of Nov. 21 by a Town Hall employee, Planning Director Alan McClennen, who had seen the scrawl below the Trader Joe's building from the bike path. The two sets of "tags,"

one behind Trader Joe's, 1427 Massachusetts Ave., the other behind D'Agostino's deli, 1297 Massachusetts Ave., had similar and dissimilar characteristics.

December

• Negotiations between FleetBoston and EPOCH Senior Living for an assisted living facility on Water Street have broken off. EPOCH was looking to redevelop the long, red brick building at 30 Water St., which had most recently been used as an office suite by BankBoston (now part of FleetBoston). Before that, it was a former fruit packing plant. The plan called for a facility with approximately 100 apartments.

• Arlington's public school students improved upon last year's scores on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. In fact, in some areas - especially in the fourth grade - students performed well above the state average. Fourth, eighth, and 10th grade students took the much-maligned exams last spring and the results rank them as one of the highest school systems in the commonwealth. According to figures supplied by the superintendent's office, there are more students listed in the higher levels of "proficient" and "advanced" this year and fewer students "failing." Two elementary schools, Brackett and Thompson, also had 0 percent of students listed as "failing" in all three categories. Meanwhile, Minuteman Regional High School topped almost every regional vocational school in the state with this year's MCAS tests, but the school's educators criticized the fairness and accuracy of the test for vocational programs. Science was the school's greatest strength, with last year's sophomores testing above the statewide average.

• Saying that more minority teachers are needed in Arlington, representatives from Vision 2020's Diversity Task Group asked the School Committee to hire a professional human resources person for the schools. The issue is coming to light now because of Arlington's changing cultural landscape and with the possibilities of a myriad of teachers retiring within the next few years. While approximately 13 percent of Arlington's students are non-white, Superintendent Kay Donovan acknowledged that the teaching staff is around 1 percent, a fact that the schools have tried to address.

• In the middle of a selectmen-

imposed license moratorium, Richard Arone's car service received a temporary permission to operate to the dismay and indignation of Arlington taxi owners. Arone is the owner of Arlington Transportation Services, a one-man livery service he operates from his home. On Monday, he received a temporary license from the Board of Selectmen that will allow him to operate his business until March 31. Arone had applied for the license last March. Arone owns and drives a single car, specializing in driving disabled and elderly people. He is a former employee of Minuteman Home Health Care, and said he has specialized skills in accommodating his passengers. He charges roughly half the fee of a regular taxi service, and most of his customers live in Arlington.

• Arlington Housing Authority's board of commissioners formally recognized a tenants organization for Drake Village Tuesday. The commissioners designated Drake Village Tenant's Association to represent the tenants in the administration of their development. The housing authority held a special, non-binding election at Drake Village last week, asking the residents to pick between rival tenants' groups, Drake Village Tenant's Association and Drake/Hauser Tenants Organization. Call them The Association and The Organization. The commissioners called for the vote to see which tenants' group had the support of the people living at the public-housing complex near the Lexington line. Drake Village and its attendant Hauser building contain 216 apartments, and people might enter a waiting list to live there. More than 100 tenants voted at the Dec. 15 election. After the polls closed, the Association received 97 votes. The Organization received six.

• An unknown person or people defaced the front of an Arlington Center church with an occult symbol some time before the morning of Dec. 16. The vandal drew a black pentagram, a five-pointed star within a circle, on the front doors of St. Athanasius Greek Orthodox Church, 735 Massachusetts Ave. The crudely drawn symbol appeared on the seam of the door, beneath two Christmas wreaths, and measured roughly 10 inches in diameter. It was discovered in the morning by church Father Nicholas Kastanas and washed off the day it was discovered.

—Compiled by Les G. Masterson



One of the highlights of Town Day this year was this Uncle Sam hot air balloon, which owned Arlington's own Samuel Wilson.

built by local developer Robert Mirak. The project, located at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Whittemore Street, is now in the process of reviewing bids from contractors.

• The Board of Selectmen want to build more than \$1 million from the town's share of the Minuteman Regional High School budget until Arlington is presented with a calculation of its share in line with state funding formulas. The amount represents half of Arlington's contribution to the school this year, and the decision to withhold the money was supported by the entire board.

• Town Manager Donald Marquis said he had no other alternative than to fire Arlington police officers Jennifer McGurl and Daniel Kelly for "complete disregard of their duties and responsibilities" on Aug. 27, 1997. The officers have

Police log entries a highlight for many Advocate readers

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

Police officers throughout the country often experience aberrant human behavior in wholesale amounts. Arlington is no exception. Printed below are some of the stranger things that have appeared in Arlington's police log during 1999.

Don't come 'round here no more

On Jan. 22, police arrested a 19-year-old Somerville man after receiving a call from a Heath Road resident. The Somerville man said he was trying to visit friends at that home, but he was not let in. A background check revealed two outstanding warrants for the man, who was arrested and taken to Community Safety Building.

Lost on the way to the bathroom

On the evening of March 7, Mike's Automotive at 1132 Massachusetts Ave., reported a burglary. An employee reported that a man had walked in and asked to use the bathroom. The employee served another customer and returned to the station office to find \$250 missing from a coin pouch and \$15 from a cash pouch.

The afterlife starts badly; A dubious rise

During the afternoon of March 27, a woman reported that her car was broken into on Westminster Avenue and that her husband's ashes were stolen from the trunk. Also that day, a caller reported that a white female had been stopping pedes-

trians on Massachusetts Avenue and asking them for money. The caller said she identified herself as a private detective and displayed a badge. She left in a car headed toward Lexington.

Fluids Fly, Part I

On the evening of July 28, a woman parked at Massachusetts Avenue and Lake Street reported that an angered motorist swore and threw coffee at her for not moving her car forward.

Truly petty theft

On the morning of Aug. 5, a 71-year-old man who said he was walking to buy a paper near Lussiano Park reported that three young men in a white Toyota Tercel drove up. Two men in their late-teens got out and demanded his wallet. The man responded that he had no wallet, only 40 cents. The men took the change and drove away.

We don't think she's coming back

On Aug. 19, the owner of The Clip Joint, 108 Massachusetts Ave., reported that a former employee had stolen her driver's license. On Aug. 20, police received a report that the woman suspected of stealing the driver's license on Aug. 19 had used it to fraudulently to obtain a U-Haul truck. On the morning of Aug. 23, the grandmother of the woman suspected of stealing a driver's license and renting the U-Haul truck reported that the woman had stolen and cashed a check for \$325.

Brazen lawnmower man

On the morning of Aug. 24, a resident

of Michael Street reported that she watched a man walk into her garage, take her lawnmower, put it into a truck and drive away. The mower was estimated to be worth \$100.

No good deed goes unpunished

In the evening of Aug. 27, police mediated between two men who said they were friends, the first reported that the other had struck him in the face several times. The second man reported that he had attempted to physically subdue the first to keep him from driving while drunk.

A room with a view

On the morning of Sept. 1, a resident of Mystic Street, translating for domestic employees who do not speak English, said that a week-and-a-half ago a neighbor had stood before his second-floor window and undressed. The neighbor disputed the report and said it had been made as part of an ongoing argument between them.

The start of a major omelet

On the morning of Sept. 19, a resident of Palmer Street reported that four cars had been hit by three dozen eggs.

Catch and release

On the evening of Oct. 5, a resident of Thesda Street reported that a "wild cat" had become trapped in the house. The cat was corralled into a cabinet for the evening and shooed out the next day by animal control officers.

The lesson sinks in

On the evening of Oct. 7, an Arlington High School student reported that a \$900

saxophone had been stolen from a locker. The instrument had gone missing earlier that day, was recovered and replaced in the locker, then stolen a second time.

A finely tuned bureaucracy

In the afternoon of Oct. 10, police received a complaint from a Varnum Street abutter to Thorndike Field regarding soccer balls being kicked into the yard. The matter was referred to the town's recreation department.

God vs. Cadillac

In the afternoon of Oct. 14, police received two similar but unrelated reports: a Rockmont Road resident reported that a tree had fallen onto a 1979 Cadillac, damaging the roof. One hour later, a motorist driving on Gray Street reported that a large tree limb had fallen on top of his 1983 Cadillac, causing extensive damage.

A long ride, a big finish

On the evening of Oct. 16, police and fire crews responded to a report of a car fire at the main parking lot at Lahey in Arlington, formerly known as Symmes Hospital and Medical Center. Firefighters spent an hour extinguishing the fire. Police determined that the car, which had New Jersey license plates, had been reported stolen that morning from Newark, N.J.

And he never paid up

On the evening of Oct. 24, a woman at Fremont Court reported that a white male in his late 20s, six-feet tall, with blond

hair and glasses, approached her and said he was playing truth-or-dare, and that he would split a \$30 bet that he had with his friends. He then lowered his pants and exposed his genitals.

Fluids Fly, Part II

On the evening of Nov. 13, police investigated an assault report near the Melrose Street crossing of Massachusetts Avenue. According to the police report, a 48-year-old woman had been attempting to cross the street when an eastbound car failed to yield and began to drive through. The woman reportedly threw a cup of tea on the car, whereupon the male driver stopped, got out, started swearing at the woman and attempted to throw water from a bottle at her. Following a verbal argument, the man drove away.

Go to Plan B

On the afternoon of Dec. 2, police received a report of larceny from D'Agostino's, 152 Massachusetts Ave. According to the police report, a pair of customers attempted to pay for \$265 in groceries with an unsigned credit card. When they were not allowed to do so, they grabbed the groceries and fled in a black Lincoln.

The lost items were never recovered

On the evening of Dec. 7, a resident of Fremont Street reported a house break-in, with access gained through a kitchen window. Nothing appeared to have been stolen, but the resident reported that the intruder apparently ate a bowl of cereal from the kitchen.

Minority hiring policy sparks hour-long debate

BY LES G. MASTERTSON
STAFF WRITER

Usually discussions on school policies end with little debate, except for minor word changes to the document.

But at Tuesday's School Committee meeting a discussion about a minority hiring policy turned into an hour-long debate on the number of school policies and why Arlington even needs a minority hiring policy.

School Committee member David McKenna asked the board to table the policy until an independent group could review all of the schools' policies. McKenna added that new policies should be tabled until that work is done — except for changes in accordance to state law.

"My question is do we need it," McKenna said.

School Committee member William Carey agreed with McKenna.

"Pretty soon we're going to have a policy on when to take a break and when not to take a break with the way we're going," Carey said of the number of policies.

However, School Committee member Martin Thrope disagreed that the policy should be tabled. Thrope said the board could "bury our heads in the sand" and not establish the policy, but it would be a "travesty."

McKenna also disapproved of the Policies and Procedures subcommittee developing a

policy, when it was not requested by the School Committee. The school board should direct the subcommittee, he said.

McKenna's motion was defeated 4-2-1 (with McKenna and Carey voting for the tabling and School Committee Chair Denis Sullivan abstaining).

With that finished, board members then looked at tweaking the policy before them.

Sullivan said the policy limited diversity to ethnicity and race, but he would rather a more general notion. Some could read the policy and think that Arlington is not open to other types of diversity, such as gays, lesbians, minority religions, and handicapped people. The chairman said he would prefer for diversity "with all of its flavors."

"I want to expand it and not limit it," said Sullivan, who called the policy an "important ethical, moral statement."

Though McKenna said he favors diversity, the committee member thought the policy was not inclusive. It did not include non-minorities and questioned if members could define "minority."

"If we can't then we better not vote on this because we don't know what we're doing... We can paper this whole room with policies. I want good policies," said McKenna, adding that he wants the best teachers regardless of race.

Though it is called a minority hiring policy, School Committee member Barbara Good-

man said it should actually be called a "diversity hiring policy."

She added that it is not an equal opportunity policy, but one that allows Arlington's children the opportunity of adult role models from different backgrounds.

After the hour-long discussion, a majority of the board (5-2) voted for the policy with the same two voting against it as voted for the tabling of the policy. The board also unanimously approved asking an independent group to review the committee's policies and the workings of the board's subcommittees. Superintendent Kay Donovan estimated that the study will cost around \$10,000.

At the School Committee's last meeting, the Vision 2020's Diversity Task Force asked the School Committee to hire a personnel director, which they believe would increase minority hiring. The thought is that the person would solely handle personnel matters — which is now divided among administrators — and could provide more of an outreach to minority candidates.

Donovan said Tuesday that during her six years in Arlington she has tried to hire minority staff, but it is difficult because the demand is so great. The superintendent added that some minority teachers she has hired have left Arlington for more money elsewhere or to a system with more diversity.

Speeches, dinner, music will mark MLK Day event

The annual Arlington Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance takes place on Monday, Jan. 17 at the First Baptist Church beginning with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. A program featuring speaker Judge Marjory German is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Please bring a casserole or dessert to share with six adults to the potluck dinner at 6 p.m. in the lower church.

Judge German, an Arlington resident, who serves on the Suffolk County Juvenile Court will begin her speech at 7:30 p.m. in the upper church. Prior to her appointment last February, German was the attorney in charge of the Roxbury Defenders, managing a large community public defender office. She has been a guest lecturer at Boston Univer-

sity, and a faculty member for the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education new lawyer training. She has also taught classes in Black history in the Arlington Schools and participated in forums in Boston schools.

Musical offerings will be presented by the Twelfth Baptist Church Youth Choir of Roxbury under the direction of Jonathan Singleton, and by the Arlington High Madrigal Chorus. The Martin Luther King, Jr. award will also be presented.

Child care will be available, and a free will offering will be taken to benefit the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Atlanta and the Arlington Public Schools social studies program.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOTES

At its Tuesday meeting, the School Committee discussed placing band, orchestra, and chorus choruses back into school day at Otis Middle School, changes to the curriculum frameworks, and the large number of state reimbursement projects.

The School Committee unanimously approved a plan that will put band, orchestra, and chorus (BOC) programs back into the school day at Otis Middle School.

At the beginning of the school year, officials moved BOC to before the school day, which upset many parents who claimed the schools did not respect the programs' value.

However, the School Committee's Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Subcommittee approved a measure last month to bring it back into the school day

and — with the school board's blessing Tuesday — BOC will wind up in the school day starting in September.

The only problem is that it will affect other programs: including the Arlington Challenge and Enrichment (ACE) program, Students of Otis Middle Accepting Responsibility (SOAR), and possibly Health.

Originally, the middle school staff presented four scenarios to the subcommittee, which would have included additional rooms and limiting world language choices.

The School Committee formally accepted the Otis Middle School back under its control with the construction project completed.

During construction, the Permanent Town Building Committee

had jurisdiction over the schools. With the change of hands Tuesday, it closes the books on the project and now is sent to the state.

Superintendent Kay Donovan notified the School Committee that the Board of Education is anticipating four new curriculum frameworks within the next few months. Donovan's announcement did not please one member.

"This is nuts," said member Martin Thrope. "You can't finish the job [on aligning with the state's curriculum frameworks]. The target is always moving."

Donovan agreed with Thrope, adding that each change means more money and time for the system.

Donovan told the board that there are 122 schools currently on the state's school construction

reimbursement list, including 61 which were added this year.

The total \$103.4 million on the list will come before any work on the Dallin or Peirce schools, which are included with two other schools, Stratton and Thompson, on the April 1 debt exclusion override.

With many communities taking advantage of state reimbursement, School Committee member David McKenna pointed to Proposition 2 1/2 for the source of the crumbling buildings. Proposition 2 1/2's approval in the early 1980s meant that schools had to cut their budgets and many times that means cuts in maintenance budgets.

"One way or another we have to pay for it," said McKenna.

— Compiled by Les G. Masterson

CAPITOL THEATRE

204 Massachusetts Ave.
Movie listings, 648-4340

Ending Thursday, Jan. 6

• MUSIC OF THE HEART (PG)
..... 2:10, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
• BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB (G)
..... 2:00, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

Friday, Jan. 7

• MANSFIELD PARK (PG13)
..... 2:00, 5:10, 7:25, 9:55
• THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13)
..... 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
• AMERICAN BEAUTY (R)
..... 2:10, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50
• BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R)
..... 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30
• PRINCESS MONOKOE (PG13)
..... 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

• POKEMON: THE FIRST MOVIE (G)
..... 1:20, 3:10
• THE INSIDER (R)
..... 5:00, 7:55

Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 8 and 9

• MANSFIELD PARK (PG13)
..... 11:35, 2:00, 5:10, 7:25, 9:55
• THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13)
..... 11:45, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
• AMERICAN BEAUTY (R)
..... 11:40, 2:10, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50
• BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R)
..... 11:50, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30
• PRINCESS MONOKOE (PG13)
..... 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
• POKEMON: THE FIRST MOVIE (G)
..... 11:30, 1:20, 3:10
• THE INSIDER (R)
..... 5:00, 7:55

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Winter programs begin shortly

The Arlington Community Education's winter programs begin the week of Jan. 24, for adults and children with many course selections to choose. Residents of all communities are welcome to take part in any of the program's course offerings. Most classes are held on Tuesday or Thursday evenings while after school programs are held at a variety of times and days. More detailed listing of classes can be found in the Arlington Community Education brochure. This will be available in the Arlington libraries and the libraries of surrounding towns at the beginning of January. Call the Arlington Community Education Office, (781) 361-3568, from 5 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings, after Jan. 3, to request a brochure.

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Depression Study

Dr. Jonathan Cole is conducting a research study at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an extract of St. John's Wort in the treatment of major depression. This study is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Individuals who are experiencing depressive symptoms may be eligible for this study.

Symptoms of clinical depression may include:
• Sad, unhappy, empty, or helpless feelings • Sleep problems • Worthless or guilty feelings • Energy decrease, fatigue, or lack of motivation
• Appetite changes • Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities

For more information please contact Emily Rudominer at (617) 855-2904 or e-mail: DOWNBLUE@mclean.org

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Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center



PRESENTS A NEW FRIDAY NIGHT TRADITION

from 5:30 pm-8:30 pm

A Taste of Italy Buffet

This all-you-care-to-eat buffet will include dishes from all the regions of Italy. A fabulous assortment of pastas, seafood and Old World favorites.

Menu Features: Caesar salad, focaccia, crostinis, calamari, spit roasted pig, osso bucco, scallopini, roasted vegetables and more.
Includes a complimentary glass of house wine.

Adults **\$14.95** Children **\$7.95**

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT TRADITION WILL CONTINUE

from 5:30 pm-8:30 pm

New Prime Rib Buffet

This all-you-care-to-eat buffet will include a salad bar, baked potato bar, pasta dishes, fresh vegetables, weekly featured roasts and, of course, prime rib. Includes a complimentary glass of house wine.

Adults **\$14.95** Children **\$7.95**

For reservations, please call 978-692-8200, ext. 510.

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WINTER 2000 ARLINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Arlington High School • 869 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

Telephone (781) 316-3568 • Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Walk-in Registration: During our evening office hours at Arlington High School

Mail-in Registration: January 3-January 14 for both adult and children's classes

EVENING CLASSES

Start the week of January 24 unless stated otherwise.

COURSE	TIME & DATES	COURSE COST
ABCD's of Effective Presentations	T 7-9:30 2/29 1 wk.	\$25
Acupuncture	T 7-9 2/29 1 wk.	\$25
Adults with Special Needs	T 7-9 10 wks.	\$65
Appetite Control through Hypnosis	R 7-8:30 3/23 1 wk.	\$25
Astrology, Look to the Stars	R 7-9 1/27, 2/3 2 wks.	\$45
Ballroom Dancing	R 8:30-10 10 wks.	\$140/couple
Ballroom Dancing 2	R 7-8:30 10 wks.	\$140/couple
Body Image	R 7-9 3/9 1 wk.	\$25
Cody's Floral Designs	T 7-10 9 wks.	\$12 ea.
Commonwealth Dog Training	T 7-8 7 wks.	\$125
Eating Well, Staying Healthy	R 7-8:30 1/27 5 wks.	\$80
ESL - Intermediate	T 7-9 9 wks.	\$83
Estate Planning	T 7-9 3/14 1 wk.	\$25
Financial Well-Being	T 7-9 3/7 1 wk.	\$25
Healing & Preventing Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	T 7-9 2/8 1 wk.	\$25
How Much Will You Pay For College	T 7-9 3/14 1 wk.	\$25
Laser Vision Correction	R 7-8:30 2/10 1 wk.	\$25
Line Dancing	R 7-8:30 10 wks.	\$65
Madeleine's One Nighters	T 7-10 7 wks.	\$12 ea.
Promoting Emotional Development in Your Children	R 7-9 3/16 1 wk.	\$25
Psychology of Dieting	R 7-9 2/27 1 wk.	\$25
Quilt Making & Patchwork	T 7-9 10 wks.	\$83
Quit Smoking Quickly and Painlessly	T 7-9 2/8 1 wk.	\$25
Real Estate 101 - First-Time Homebuyers	T 7:30-9 2/7, 14 2 wks.	\$45
SAT Revolution	T&R 8:30-9:30 12 wks.	\$750/\$683
Sewing	T 7-9:30 10 wks.	\$83
Sharpening Your Conversation & Listening Skills	T 7-8:30 3/7 1 wk.	\$25
Spanish I	T 7-9 10 wks.	\$83

EVENING CLASSES (continued)

Start the week of January 24 unless stated otherwise.

COURSE	TIME & DATES	COURSE COST
Spanish II	R 7-9 10 wks.	\$83
Taking Control Of Your Financial Future	R 7-9 2/3 1 wk.	\$25
Turn Your Tension Down	T 7-9 1/25 1 wk.	\$25
Your Clutter Free Home	T 7-9:30 2 wks.	\$45

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

Start the week of January 24 unless stated otherwise.

COURSE	TIME & DATES	COURSE COST
French - Brackett School	R 2:30-3:30 1/27 12 wks.	\$144/\$134
French - Stratton School	W 2:45-3:45 1/26 12 wks.	\$144/\$134
French - Thompson School	W 2:45-3:45 1/26 12 wks.	\$144/\$134
Mad Science - Brackett - Gr. 1-3	M 2:45-3:45 1/24 8 wks.	\$86
Mad Science - Dallin - Gr. 1-3	T 2:45-3:45 1/25 8 wks.	\$86
Mad Science - Hardy - Gr. 1-3	W 2:45-3:45 1/26 8 wks.	\$86
Mad Science - Pierce - Gr. 1-3	R 2:45-3:45 1/27 8 wks.	\$86
Spanish - Brackett School	R 2:30-3:30 1/27 12 wks.	\$144/\$134
Spanish - Hardy School	T 2:45-3:45 1/25 12 wks.	\$144/\$134

COMPUTER CLASSES

Start the week of January 24 unless stated otherwise.

COURSE	TIME & DATES	COURSE COST
Microsoft Word Part 1	R 7-9 1/27 5 wks.	\$88
Microsoft Word Part 2	R 7-9 3/9 5 wks.	\$88
Excel for Beginners	T 7-9 1/25 5 wks.	\$88
Excel for Advanced	T 7-9 3/7 5 wks.	\$88
Windows '95/98/NT	T 7-9 1/25 5 wks.	\$88
Introduction to Computers 1	R 7-9 1/27 10 wks.	\$115
Surfing the Web	T 7-9 3/7 3 wks.	\$55
Adobe Illustrator and the Graphics Tradition	R 7-9 1/27 10 wks.	\$115
Web Page Design	T 7-9 3/28 2 wks.	\$35

COMMENT

The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"

Samuel Wilson

EDITORIAL

More signage moves problems elsewhere

When residents see too many cars pass by their home, it has become fashionable for residents who see too many cars pass by their home to start petitions to shut down their streets.

This has happened with residents on Paul Revere Road, Elmhurst Road, and other streets faced with traffic problems.

Last month, residents in the Paul Revere Road and Appleton Street area protested the volume, speed, and parking habits of traffic on their streets.

In March, Paul Revere resident Janet Mahoney asked the Board of Selectmen to look into a growing problem with car and commercial truck volume, but Eugene Del Gaizo, then Arlington's director of police services, did not agree with the idea of restricting truck traffic.

Mahoney then got 37 neighbors to sign a petition to restrict truck traffic, but current Director of Police Services Fred Ryan agreed with Del Gaizo's decision. Instead, Ryan placed the department's traffic and speed monitor in the neighborhood. Traffic enforcement was also stepped up. The police are still investigating the matter.

Meanwhile, 34 petitioners living on Elmhurst Road, Randolph Street, Newcomb Street, Freeman Street, and Brooks Avenue have asked the Board of Selectmen to do something about their small private way taking on too much morning traffic.

They claim that Massachusetts Avenue drivers use their streets as a way to avoid the Lake Street traffic light.

The solution they propose is to prohibit cars driving on Massachusetts Avenue from turning onto Elmhurst between 7 and 9 a.m. They want a similar prohibition for left turns from Newcomb, Randolph, and Freeman streets.

People living on Orvis Road and adjoining streets made a similar request for a block from Massachusetts Avenue. However, Del Gaizo said such a restriction would push too much traffic to nearby streets.

The selectmen adopted a less-restrictive solution, placing signs that prohibit left turns from Orvis onto the cross-streets leading to Lake Street during the commute. However, Elmhurst residents are now stuck with traffic displacement from Orvis.

We commend residents for getting involved in the traffic issue. No one likes a lot of cars passing their homes, especially when those vehicles are speeding.

However, erecting "Do Not Enter" signs does not help — it only forces the traffic elsewhere. That is what happened with Orvis and will happen each time there are street restrictions.

Now, Ryan is investigating ways to help ease the situation without prohibiting turning from Massachusetts Avenue onto Elmhurst.

Instead of pleading for more traffic restricts, those affected by traffic should petition the town to conduct a town-wide traffic survey. At that point, the town can see the trouble areas and develop solutions that would not adversely affect another side street.

Residents should take heart — you have been heard. Though the options presented would only cause traffic problems elsewhere in town, *The Advocate* praises the commitment; and hopefully Ryan and his staff can develop a way to ease residents' pain without harming another neighborhood.

Let your voice be heard

The *Arlington Advocate* welcomes letters to the editor.

To be published, letters must include a signature and either a daytime phone number, home phone number, or both.

Letters should be limited to 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity, or to run a sampling of opinion when multiple letters are submitted on the same topic.

Letters must be dropped off at one of the drop boxes — at White Hen Pantry, 94 Summer St., and D'Agostino's Deli, 1297 Massachusetts Ave. — by noon Monday or delivered by 5 p.m. Monday to the office at 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02420.

Readers can also fax their letters to (781) 674-7735 or e-mail them to arlington@cnc.com by 5 p.m. Monday.



Arlington not a second class community

I never knew Arlington was a combination of the South Bronx and a Kosovo refugee camp until I met the woman from Lexington.

It was over five years ago, and my wife and I were attending a business dinner in Boston. The woman from Lexington sat at our table. After regaling us about her triumphs through the appetizers and entrees, she expressed a moment of interest in our lives. Perhaps she noticed that my wife was pregnant and wanted to test our fitness as impending parents. After all, the child could be mugging little old ladies in Lexington in 16 years.

We failed, how we failed. For we were moving from Cambridge to Arlington, where, according to the woman from Lexington, the schools were abysmal, the houses were sorry, the streets were filled with gloom. For God's sake, she pleaded, had we at least looked in Belmont?

We had, actually. And we probably would have bought a house in Belmont if we could have afforded one. But we had to "settle" for Arlington instead.

Now we're glad we did. At that time, the only thing we really knew about Arlington was that it shared a border with Cambridge. We had also heard that the town was a bit stale, run by the old boys and not too welcoming to the new boys and girls.



LEWIS RICE

But in the five years we've lived here, the reputation that dogged Arlington — and the woman from Lexington — have been proven wrong. Indeed, if anything defines Arlington at the beginning of the year 2000, it is the town's tapestry of the old and the new, the traditional and the trendy, the basics and the luxuries, and the something for everyone.

The many businesses and restaurants that have opened the past few years have brought variety and a new style to the town, but have not supplanted the mainstays that residents have relied upon for many years. Some people roam the aisles of Trader Joe's for imported dried fruit while others stick with the Italian subs at D'Agostino's. Some people prefer the baked stuffed shrimp at Jimmy's Steer House over the skate at the Village Fish. Some people choose the baguettes at Carberry's over the cupcakes at Ye Olde Bake Shoppe. Some people prefer pizza while others try Lebanese, or Korean or Indian food. And some of us are just thankful to have the choices.

Arlington has changed but not in a way that should alienate longtime residents. The new people who have arrived, many from Cambridge after the demise of rent control, have not only embraced the town but have become active participants. They take part in town government, volunteer on boards and in schools, shop, work and play in Arlington. They complement the residents who have stayed in Arlington for generations, who have seen the changes and are still committed to the town.

Today, Arlington is admired by even its

wealthier neighbors. One parent who moved from Arlington to Concord told me that the Concord school system does not offer the programs that Arlington does. A Lexington resident recently wrote a critical letter to the *Lexington Minuteman* about that town, saying Arlington is a more vibrant place. In Concord, where I worked until recently as the community newspaper editor, residents uniformly praised Arlington when I told them I live here.

Of course, all communities still have their problems and issues, Arlington included. A look back at 1999 shows a tumultuous year within the police department, the demise of a full-service community hospital, a bank robbery, and racist graffiti marring a normally peaceful town. In addition, the home prices that traditionally made the town affordable are escalating to levels that may shut out the diversity that makes it special.

Let's hope that doesn't happen. For as the new year begins, Arlington residents should take pride in the continuing evolution of the town, with new ideas and old values blending into a cohesive whole. Those who consider Arlington a lesser choice than Belmont, or Lexington or Concord just don't know Arlington.

I was ignorant five years ago about the town. Now I know better. And I can't help but believe that when that woman from Lexington drives through our town, she stops and thinks that this is a pretty nice place to live after all.

Lewis Rice is a resident of Arlington.

It seemed like an emergency at the time

It was the day after Christmas when my wife and I found ourselves facing our first-ever middle-of-the-night visit to the emergency room with our 7-month-old daughter, Jackie. If you're looking for an antidote to whatever holiday cheer you may still have in your system by the day after Christmas, this is a pretty good one.

It began late that evening, when Jackie started crying. Now, usually this is normal for babies; in fact, it's pretty much their own special language. They have that hungry cry, that need-for-a-new-diaper (and quick!) cry, that "Rover is using my face as a Popsicle" cry, etc.

This, however, was not a normal cry. We knew that because it lasted for an hour and a half, and Jackie is thankfully not what you'd call a big crier; she prefers to express herself through gurgly smiles, prolonged vowel sounds (personal favorite: "Aaaaaaaahhhh!") and projectile drooling.

After some discussion, we determined that her symptom — crying, that is — must be an indicator of an ear infection. We made this determination based not so much on a vast knowledge of pediatric medicine, but rather on a parental need to come up with an ailment to go along with every possible symptom. Personally, I figure I must have gotten this from my own parents and grandparents, who never pass up an opportunity to show their own

medical expertise by exclaiming, "She must be teething!" every time Jackie does anything but smile broadly.

A call to the doctor neither confirmed nor denied the ear infection theory, which was enough for us. At about 12:30 a.m., we bundled Jackie up in her snowsuit and the hat made to look like Winnie the Pooh's disembodied head and set off for the Lahey Clinic. It struck me as we drove down the deserted highway that I couldn't remember the last time I saw the outside of the house at 12:30 a.m. — usually I can't even stay awake for "Becker."

Of course, our crying baby fell asleep in the car on the ride down; it seems the car can turn any baby from a howling maniac to an unconscious one in a matter of minutes. I've thought about starting up a service for insomniacs where I strap them backward in a van and drive them around 'til they conk out — I just never figured out how I would get their snowsuits off and put them to bed without waking them up.

So we carried our sleeping one into the emergency room at Lahey, which I should mention bore no resemblance to the emergency room on "E.R." In fact, not once in our entire time there did I hear anyone say "stat." I took this to be a good thing.

We plaintively explained to the nurse how our baby was clearly in pain, most likely the result of the aforementioned parentally diagnosed ear infection. It was at this point that, as if to punctuate the seriousness of our concerns, Jackie woke up and proceeded to let loose a series of gurgly smiles the likes of which we haven't seen since she first tasted

custard.

This was followed by an equally happy exchange between her and the doctor, and an examination that determined not only didn't she have an ear infection, she was healthier than pretty much everybody else in the room. And certainly happier, at least after the whole thermometer episode.

Of course, at this point we expected a lecture about how bringing our child to the emergency room for no reason threatened to topple the American health care system as we know it. After all, we'd seen that Bill Bradley commercial where the couple talks ominously about needing more maternity time in the hospital and Bradley swoops in with all his senatorial power and gets them that time, by gum. But since he's not president yet, we figured we were in big trouble.

But what happened was just the opposite — if anything, we were admonished for being apologetic. "That's why we're here!" said the doctor, to a chorus of gurgles and coos from his patient, who by this time had apparently adopted the man as her long-lost rich grandfather.

As we rolled home around 2 a.m. we were exhausted (except for Jackie, who of course fell asleep in the car), but relieved that our little girl was OK, and that our health insurance seemed to have worked exactly like it was supposed to. (Go figure.) As for Jackie, she's back to her smiley self and we still have no idea what set her off that night.

I guess she must be teething.

Peter Chianca is a managing editor for Community Newspaper Company.

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It is the goal of *The Arlington Advocate* to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need, in a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Agrees with editorial

I would like to commend *The Arlington Advocate* for its editorial "Proud of Town's Youth" which appeared in the Dec. 23 issue of the paper.

I think that our young people deserve more pats on the back than they receive.

Records show that about 1 to 2 percent of the youth today get into trouble or are trouble makers and the other 98 percent of our youngsters, who are good citizens, get no credit at all. The 1 to 2 percent gets all the notoriety.

I would like to congratulate the students, along with the staff and administrators of the Arlington Public Schools, for the improved performance in the MCAS scores. It shows that hard work does pay off. I believe the MCAS test should not be the only determining factor as to whether a student should be allowed to graduate.

The late Massachusetts Commission of Education Gregory Anrig, who went on to become the head of the Princeton Testing Service, said 20 years ago that we were testing our students too much. If that was so then — how about now?

Another interesting article in the sporting section of the same paper notes that our wrestling program, that is only four years old, has 41 participants this year which is an increase of 14 over the previous year. As stated in the editorial, we have many outstanding athletic teams here in Arlington as well as other after-school activities to keep our young people involved. This makes for healthy minds and bodies, and I applaud these students for their interest and participation.

William A. Carey Jr.
Arlington School
Committee member

Hire the best teachers

In 1950 you could get an excellent education in the public schools of this country, but as time passed American public education came under the influence of ideas that had an adverse effect on our educational standards. SAT scores fell. American high school students compared very poorly with students of other countries when given the same tests. When given a test of scientific knowledge, Amer-

ican students scored lower than the students of any of the other countries tested, but when they were asked about their confidence in their knowledge, the American students scored highest in self confidence.

One of the ideas that guided American education during the period of declining standards was that some teachers should be hired from certain minority groups even in preference to people from other groups who might be better qualified.

Today, in order to get a better education, minority students come to Arlington from other cities which have far more minority teachers than Arlington has.

In order to give Arlington students the best education we can offer, our schools should have the best teachers we can get. Their race or ethnicity should not be a factor in determining who should be hired. It should not matter whether all of the teachers who are hired are black or white or oriental or Latino as long as they are the most capable we can get.

However, according to an article in *The Arlington Advocate* of Dec. 16, 1999, ("Task group: More diversity needed"), we will begin using race and ethnicity as criteria instead of just hiring the most qualified teachers we can get. This will have an adverse effect on the quality of education provided by Arlington schools, and is illegal according to the United States Supreme Court.

Harold Ramsey

Driver violated rules

In 1994, Arlington Cab Companies joined to prevent an individual from receiving a hackney license, since this person/company had operated a non-licensed vehicle without proper insurance and the driver having not been properly licensed and the vehicle not properly insured, this applicant was swiftly rejected.

This applicant who held a (separate) legitimate license from the town, purchased from Arlex Taxi and approved by the town was also told by another unlicensed activity would result in revocation of his existing license. This was done to protect the citizens of Arlington from being unknowing victims of an unlicensed service placing them in jeopardy.

Had this vehicle during transport been involved in an accident and not being properly licensed (the activity of transporting passengers for hire is not covered by regular auto insurance) placing anyone in the vehicle uncovered in the event of an accident. At this meeting, we raised our first concerns about "Arlington Transportation Service" operating the same way as the rejected applicant.

Since that time, Mr. Arone operated through 1998 using regular plates, the same plates you have on your regular car. These plates do not allow for the carrying of passengers for hire. Insurance companies have consistently denied claims for accidents where the vehicle was involved in illegal or unlicensed acts with an unlicensed or improperly licensed driver (no Hackney license).

He does not have a Hackney carriage driver's license as required by town regulation for anyone carrying passengers for hire; these licenses are required to prevent things like the US Shuttle driver with no background check raping a passenger. Also, it is in violation of Town ordinance to solicit or transport people for hire in a vehicle not inspected by the police.

Apparently in 1997, Mr. Arone applied to the town for a Livery License and was mistakenly told he did not need a license. I am sure, however, he was not told he could operate without proper insurance, with an improperly/illegal registered vehicle and did not need to get the proper driver's license for his activities. [Town Council] John Maher is a decent honorable man that admitted he made a mistake and advised Mr. Arone he did not need a livery license. Our argument is not with that or his lack of a license to own livery vehicle during that time and when he was told he needed such license.

Every businessperson is expected to conduct their activities within the law, to protect both the public and themselves. When Mr. Arone received a letter from his insurance company requiring a license to operate his livery vehicle, he was at that time notified of his insurance not being valid without such license. He was also informed by MASSPORT that they required a livery license or letter from the town to operate. Any businessman worthy of serving the public should have

stopped placing his customers in danger until they are properly licensed.

The use of Mr. Maher's opinion as a universal license for all his activities seems a bit much. Mr. Arone cites this opinion as his whole argument for why he should be licensed. However, when Mr. Maher also issued the opinion that Mr. Arone should not transport school children without the state-required 7-D license, Mr. Arone totally disregarded this opinion. Later, when the selectman issued the moratorium on livery licenses and Mr. Maher said Mr. Arone could not operate his unlicensed service, yet again Mr. Arone chose to continue to operate his unlicensed service against the orders of the selectman.

When the selectman put in place the moratorium to protect the citizens from an unlicensed and therefore uninsurable operation with an unlicensed driver, they acted in what many would say was a protective role. After that meeting, I offered Mr. Arone a job but made it clear he would need to be trained and properly licensed as a driver as all licensed Arlington cab drivers are.

Also, if Mr. Arone has received any "specialty training in transportation" it is not with any licensed agency I can find. Drivers since the ADA Act are required to be trained with passenger sensitivity training, and handicapped sensitivity training, the Dial-A-Ride and Medicare contract calls for even more additional training. These agencies require yearly training, yet have never heard of this gentleman. If he were really trying to operate a service for the seniors or the handicapped wouldn't he operate a handicapped-accessible vehicle like we do?

We will need to see how many of our drivers will act to move to serving other towns, or how this will affect the men and women who have followed the rules. One thing's for sure, how many of my drivers will want to follow the rules when the rewards are only if you violate them.

Ronald Bonney, Jr.
Arlex Taxi

Thank you volunteers

On behalf of the Bowes family, I would like to thank the wonderful volunteers from the Arlington Elks Lodge who

provided so much assistance to our "Don't Eat Alone on Christmas Day" dinner. Approximately 30 meals were served to a variety of people from their 40s to age 95. It was a great day!

Special thanks to: Hank Philips, Pete Corwin, Pat Casey, Lynn Cabral, David Donoghue, Dave Taylor, Gunny Livingston, Wally Stotik, and Bill, Billy, and Jonathan Copithrone.

Robert E. Bowes

Dear governor

A copy of this letter was sent to Governor Paul Cellucci.

I have attended several meetings on affordable housing in my town, Arlington, as a politically active citizen, and have come to realize that solving this problem is central to the future of both the town and state. While I have heard of admirable efforts undertaken by cities and towns, I hear of nothing new in recent years on the state level to respond to the growing gap between people's assets and housing costs. The bad effects of this gap are quite predictable:

1. Talent will leave our region out of exasperation over housing costs, and take our economic boom with them. (Evidence of this trend has already been widely reported for the Silicon Valley.)

2. Meanwhile, people living in sub-standard housing will suffer from stress and health problems, further straining the region's support structures.

3. Finally, an all-too-common crisis (divorce, disability, illness) can turn affordable housing into unaffordable housing for a given family, leading to an even more dire but avoidable crisis.

I recognize that the problem is complex. I do not expect your administration or the state government to solve the underlying causes, which include a growing income gap and overcrowding in our region. But I hope to be reassured that the blasé attitude suggested in Saturday's *Globe* article does not hold, that you are striving for creative solutions, and that you are willing to fund promising attempts to ameliorate the problem.

Andrew Oram

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Dental Tips
by Ghada S. Massabni, D.M.D.

A VIEW OF THE RIDGE

The bone that surrounds and supports the teeth is called the alveolar ridge. When a tooth is extracted or there is severe periodontal disease, bone loss may occur that threatens the stability and health of the teeth that it is meant to support. If lost bone is not replaced, teeth may shift and the bone may resorb, making replacing lost bone integral to maintaining healthy teeth. With this in mind, the dentist may choose to replace lost bone with a synthetic, calcium-containing material that works with the body to stimulate new bone growth. With the passage of time, the material resorbs and is replaced with new bone growth that is sufficient to preserve the alveolar ridge and support remaining teeth.

Call us at (781) 935-2200 to find out more information on today's column. Good dental health is no accident. We're located at **576 Main Street, Woburn**, where our goal is to help preserve your natural teeth for a lifetime. We stress preventive dental care for the entire family, and teaching you how to prevent dental disease is one of our primary goals. Our entire staff extends a warm welcome to all new patients, and we thank you for placing your trust and confidence in us.

P.S. Bone grafts may also be used to replace lost alveolar bone.

LP SENIOR CIRCUIT
by Lisa D'Eon
Marketing Director

UPON FURTHER REFLECTION

When Americans between the ages of 30 and 50 years look in the mirror, nearly 70 percent of them see a person who looks younger than his or her actual age. That is one of the observations drawn from a survey conducted for a pharmaceutical firm that manufactures anti-aging products. The survey went on to show that women are more likely than men to see a younger self in the mirror. Then again, women also spend more time and devote more effort to maintaining that illusion. According to the report, both men and women regard weight gain as the single biggest indicator of aging, far outpacing

Helping yourself to look your best can make you feel better, so taking care of your body—even pampering yourself—offers pleasures as well as benefits. At LONGMEADOW PLACE BURLINGTON, 42 Mall Road, we offer both Independent and Assisted living for seniors who wish to join a community where they can find friends, receive support services, and have their medical needs monitored. We're conveniently located just across from the Lahey Clinic. Call 781-270-9008 for more information.

P.S. According to the survey mentioned above, only 12% of women and 19% of men between the ages of 30 and 50 thought they looked older than their age.

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MarieElena McGonigle with Dallin first graders.

Youngsters explore wonders of language

■ LANGUAGE FROM V.I.

another indicated his eyes.

"Muy bueno" (very good). Then to "Los días de la semana" (the days of the week).

Nearly every response was in Spanish. "What you say?" one student asked. The answer: "Todo Español" (all in Spanish).

But not all, not to the exclusion of youthful enthusiasm. One student said, smiling, he remembered "domingo" (Sunday) because it rhymes with "flamingo." Cocconi smiled.

Periodically, you hear Ford's voice answering in Spanish with the children. "We're learning, too," she said, referring to class-

room teachers.

In addition, they help with discipline. At one point, when some boys seem distracted by their own side event, Ford stepped in to help them focus.

For the most part, the second graders kept with the beat. While working with numbers, those who answered correctly got a quick "perfecto!" Cocconi also placed a small colorful stamp on the back of the hand of anyone with a right response. "Gracias," each student responded.

Thus, as suddenly as she had come, the Spanish teacher was gone, on to her next class.

"Muy rapido" (very quickly).

Program could lead to other languages

BY BOB SPRAGUE
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

What has helped the new world-languages program in Arlington public schools succeed this fall?

If you ask the three who are teaching Spanish to all the kindergarten through second graders, they echo one word — support.

Support from whom?

A good question. The three teachers — MarieElena McGonigle, Siobhan Foley and Marina Cocconi — have so many to thank.

There is school Superintendent Kay Donovan, who once taught foreign languages at the elementary-school level and backs the program from the top down. She is seeking money in the new budget to expand the program to grades beyond second.

There is Joanne Gurry, the assistant superintendent of curriculum.

There is "tremendous support from all the principals."

McGonigle said: "[Peirce Principal] Marilyn Flaherty took the time to sit in all of my Spanish classes to show the students and the teachers she backs our program. I realize she does not have the time, and that meant a lot."

There is the mentoring program, under which experienced teachers shepherd new ones. At Dallin, where the three receive mentoring, they gave particular praise to first-grade teacher Lauren Jastremski, who had offered so much.

There is Judi Bohn, partnership coordinator for the public schools. She and Rose Udics, a Brackett parent, were forces in launching the original parent-paid, after-school program in the fall of 1998.

"I've been inspired by the way in which parents have supported this long-term goal," Bohn said. "Each week I hear anecdotes about how children are coming home and speaking Spanish."

"It has generated so much positive energy for early grade parents and kids. I'm looking ahead now at how to bring the resources to the schools to help plan for the impact of this program on the middle- and high-school language programs. Planning is the key."

"I know we have the support. Last week, the superintendent recommended adding one more Spanish teacher for next year."

Udics added: "We were very pleased that the parents, teachers,



Marina Cocconi with her puppet, Pepe. Cocconi is one of three teaching Spanish to kindergarten through second graders.

principals, school administration and School Committee were able to work together so cooperatively to bring a foreign language into the elementary grades this year. This was a wonderful example of a true partnership. The children of Arlington will benefit in many ways from learning to speak another language while they are so young.

Its success, bringing together Brackett and Stratton students in a joint effort while the new Brackett was undergoing construction, led to the during-the-school-day, state-curriculum-based effort.

The after-school Spanish program has continued, with Foley and Cocconi involved.

Asked what's best about the

new Spanish program, Cocconi said, "Kids love it; they teach other kids."

"We get positive feedback from parents," McGonigle said. "The kids' pronunciation is phenomenal."

Foley returned to that key word: "Teachers support the program. We feel we do have support."

Helping to connect teachers to the process has been the addition of Spanish classes for teachers themselves. At Stratton-Bishop, four are involved, and seven at Dallin.

But what happens in the classroom may provide the answer to what's best about the new program, Foley told about a boy in an

ESL class who hadn't been participating. At one point, he held his head in his hands.

The other students were learning the song, but it seemed the boy wasn't. At length, without warning, the boy belted out the song in Spanish.

"That was really wonderful," she said.

Will the program expand? That is the hope of the superintendent as well as many Arlington parents, according to a survey last spring.

In addition, activists at Dallin are seeking to provide an after-school program in French or Spanish for grades three through five. If successful, it will be twice weekly and begin in January.

SCHOOL NOTES

Key upcoming education forums

• "Relearning Arithmetic: The Investigations" curriculum for Parents and Children, kindergarten through grade 5, 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, Ottoson Middle School cafeteria.

This evening, part of the Parent Education Forum Series: 1999-2000, offers a first look at understanding the way math is taught in the Arlington schools. The presenter is Joanne Heming, math department and teacher trainer, Arlington public schools. Math resource books will also be available for purchase.

• "Parent Teens — What's Normal, What's Not, When to Worry, When Not," a forum for parents of sixth- through 12th-grade students, is scheduled for 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the Arlington High School cafeteria.

Dr. Arnold Kerzner, a child psychologist in Belmont for 28 years, will address topics that include sexuality, depression, alcohol, drugs and eating disorders.

Information: Cindy Bouvier, Arlington public schools' health

education department (316-3570).

• Frameworks Curriculum Panel for Parents and Children, kindergarten through grade 5, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, Brackett School.

Arlington public school educators — teachers, principals and administrators — have been busy aligning curriculum with new state standards. Come and learn how the curriculum is being developed and adapted in eight content areas (English and language arts, mathematics, social science and history, science and technology engineering, the arts, foreign language and health).

The evening format will start with short presentations by department heads followed by a question-and-answer period. Moderated by Joanne Gurry, assistant superintendent for curriculum.

Millennium Dance at Stratton

The school's Millennium Dance is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7. A disk jockey, Deuces are Wild, will be on hand.

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SCHOOL MENUS

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Week of Jan. 10
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Scrambled eggs, fresh bagel, sausage, sliced orange.

Tuesday

Grilled pastrami and cheese, onion rings, carrot sticks.

Wednesday

Macaroni and cheese, multi-grain roll, grapes.

Thursday

Taco boat w/lettuce, tomato, cheese, onion and salsa, rice, fruit snack.

Friday

Roast pork loin, mashed potatoes, applesauce, carrots.

Deli bar, salad bar, nachos, pizza and calzone, pasta selections, grill works, stir fry and soups also offered daily. Fruit, vegetable, bread and milk served with all meals.

ELEMENTARY

Monday

BLT sandwich on multigrain bread, potato salad, animal crackers, stuffed crust pizza.

Tuesday

Chicken Parmesan sandwich, pasta salad, celery sticks, tossed salad w/chicken, cheese and 7-grain bread.

Wednesday

Macaroni and cheese, pita bread, veggie sticks and dip.

Thursday

Taco boat w/all the toppings.

rice, apple juice; fresh fruit salad, yogurt, cheese, multigrain roll.

Friday

Scrambled eggs, potato puffs, blueberry muffin, juice; chef salad, bread stick, applesauce.

Alternatives: Monday: chicken nuggets w/dipping sauce, rice; Tuesday: cheeseburger, potato puffs; Wednesday: hot dog, rice; Thursday: chicken nuggets w/dipping sauce, rice; Friday: calzone, rice, veggie sticks.

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